



NEWS RELEASE

August 28, 2002

Agents Arrest East County Drug Smuggler

Campo, California – An unemployed woman who decided to change her luck with an early morning gambling trip is in jail today for smuggling marijuana.

Suspicious behavior led Border Patrol agents to stop a 32-year-old female U.S. citizen early Tuesday morning on Old Highway 80 near the I-8 checkpoint. Agents discovered over 237 pounds of marijuana in the trunk and rear floorboard. The estimated national street value of the load is \$190,320.

The woman, who had just left the Golden Acorn Casino, later admitted that she had heard that narcotic smugglers occasionally approached potential drivers, especially white females, at the casino and had gone there hoping to be recruited.

Apparently, the rumors were true.

Prior to leaving, a white male approached and asked her to drive a car to a nearby location. Unemployed and in need of money, she accepted the job. The unidentified man led her to believe that she was to be paid \$1,000 - \$1,500 after delivering the vehicle.

The woman and the narcotics were turned over to agents from Operation Alliance for prosecution. The vehicle she had been asked to drive was impounded.

- USBP -